The Passing Lane

CAUTION

COMPUTER CONTROLLED DO NOT INTERFERE

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🦀 CRAB 🐧 CEAL 🐟 CRIS?

🐧 CEAL 7.0 is born

The latest release of CEAL has hit most of the counties. If you haven't received yours, then you fell through a crack. Give John a call at 664-CEAL to get a poppin fresh set of diskettes containing your newest CEAL. The newest CEAL runs in Windows, and has caused a stir in many quarters for that reason. Don't forget to let your mouse out of the drawer so those new, perky spreadsheets. Thirty nts, 10,000 curves, and COGO access to points will allow you to expand your project GOIN, GOUT for COGO, Report Generareas, Plot offset chains in the plan view, Crossings in the profile, are but a few of enhancements poised to increase your oductivity.
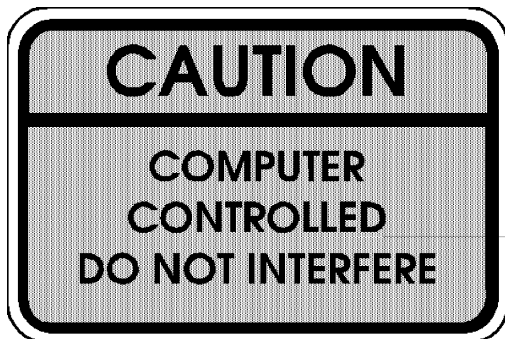
EAL 7.0 requires more horsepower than EAL 6.9. CLM recommends 12 MB of system memory to run all the commands properly. If you plan on running CEAL in Windows with other applications running, plan at least 16MB. If one of those applications is Autocad or Microstation, start thinking about an even 32MB. The program itself ll require 24MB of disk space, but leave at least 4MB free for virtual memory. CEAL memory parameters are now handled in the CEAL.VMC file in your CEAL directory. Directions for how to tweak these settings, such as swap file location, are given in the readme files in the DOS4GPRO directory installed with CEAL. For running in Windows, use the CEAL.PIF and CEAL.ICO available in the CEAL directory to set up your icon. Be sure and type SETUP at the DOS prompt to configure CEAL before trying to use a new installation. Important transition note: Data and Spec files are not backward compatible to 6.9. However, you can get data back to 6.9 by using *2.150 WRite Interface fname*, as long as the COGO objects present do not violate 6.9 limits.

🐟 Advanced Revelation 3.1

We have purchased an Advanced Revelation 3.1 upgrade for each county in Washington. Over the next 30 days or so we will be concentrating our efforts on upgrading CRIS to this latest and greatest (and last) version of Advanced Revelation (AREV). This is a good upgrade for CRIS users that greatly enhances the look and feel of CRIS adding <u>real</u> mouse support and noticeable speed improvements. Version 3.1 is also compatible with our efforts to move CRIS to Windows. Different from past AREV upgrades, we have purchased this one mainly to save you the hassles involved with previous upgrades. We will be able to upgrade one serial number in each county (stand-alone or network) so if you are using multiple copies of AREV you may need to purchase some upgrades yourself. If you have any questions or concerns about our plans please call Gene Ryser at (360)753-5989.

♪ CEAL 7.0 Spotlight

2.055 List Data Object

Have you ever typed in a list of odd stations for creating a section file and wondered if there's a more convenient place to make and keep that list? Have you ever used layout points referring to a list of many points and wished you could keep that list around, maybe to use in another command such as STAtion On? Well, now there is a place to make and keep a list that refers to stations and points. You can make the list ahead of time and keep it around to use in different commands which can use the List Data Object.

The List data object works like this: Wherever there's a station or point list required in a command, you can substitute *LD id* where the *slist* or *plist* is required. *ID* refers to the 4 character block ID in the current text file associated with the list you want.

First, create a text file using

3.637 TEXT FILE fname Create

You'll be prompted for the block id, and then several parameters referring to plotting (you can blast through these by selecting the defaults). Enter a "#" to initialize a new text block. Now you can type the list of stations or points that you are interested in using. You can enter multiple blocks by entering the "#" sign when prompted. To end the session, type "##".

Whenever you want to use a command that will refer to your list block, make the text file current using

3.640 TExt FILE fname [Open]

Now you can use your list. For example,

CON SEC ROAD1 BASEMAP DTM EV 50 LD XTRA

Where #XTRA appears in the current text file.

♪ Incremental journey

Counties were sent CEAL release 7.011. An incremental release in May from CLM (7.014) addressed some bugs in 7.011. Among the most important fixes are: ditch and match profiles recognition, data restore STOI, Modify Curve command, and endarea annotation placement. There are other small items fixed as well. For a more complete list, give me a call.

In an effort to avoid sending out every incremental release, CRAB would like to offer the following service to the CEAL faithful: If you think this incremental release is significant for your business, then please send the disks from your previous CEAL release back to John at the CRAB. They will be summarily scrubbed and reloaded with your new CEAL and sent back to you faster than that Pentium 120 you've been fantasizing about. If our list of fixes just doesn't make it onto your radar screen, then why not wait for more important happenings. Keep one eye on your mirrors, and one eye on your Passing Lane for news about incremental updates to make sure that your current CEAL is, like, totally buff and on the job.

♪ Boundary issues

A bug in CEAL 7.0 (up to and including 7.014) prevents proper use of boundary strings in creating DTM's. You can download a solution from the CEAL support file area of the CRAB BBS. Its called REFORM4.ZIP, and, when unzipped, replaces REFORM4.EXE in your CEAL\EXE directory. If you want a copy and can't get to our BBS, please call me for a diskette (Washington counties only).

Internet Service Providers

If you are not lucky enough to work in an organization that has already provided you Internet access, you may want to consider an individual account with an ISP (Internet Service Provider). This is what we have been doing at CRAB while we tried to figure out a more permanent solution. Several of the national on-line services are starting to provide Internet capabilities. These companies include CompuServe, America Online & Prodigy. Another approach is to use a local service provider. We have been using a company named Northwest Nexus, based in Bellevue, and have been generally happy with the service. The state has also signed a convenience contract with WLN, based in Olympia, and CompuTech, based in Spokane. When shopping for service it is a good idea to select a company that will allow you access with a local phone call. Now this is easier said than done if you live in Republic rather than Pasco. If you are in a remote location there are services that provide 800 number access and service will eventually make it to Republic. After all, it is only just a few miles down the road from say....Wilbur. If you would like more information about any of these service providers don't hesitate to give us a call.
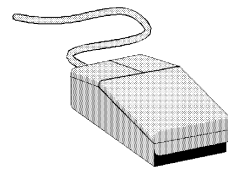
Smarter than the average chain?

Have you ever wanted the best fit average between two, roughly parallel, chains in your dataset? What if those two chains were contours with elevation 1 foot and 3 foot respectively? Then the location of the two foot contour would be one interpretation of where the "best fit" average chain is located. That is the concept behind the prompt that CRAB's April Advanced CEAL workshop developed. The prompt was recently completed and is now available to all. The prompt takes two existing chains as input, and produces a chain, and the points associated with that chain, as output. It uses CEAL map and contour files as the intermediate step to developing the "best fit" solution. Look for the self-extracting zip, CHAVG.EXE in the CEAL Support area of the CRAB BBS. Be sure to install the PGM files in your prompts directory, and the EXE files in your CEAL directory before you try this one out.
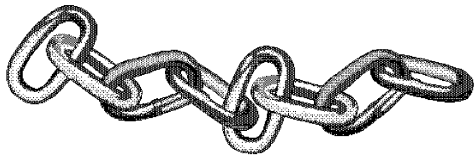
SVGA mouse support for CEAL

Tired of squinting at jaggy, lifeless VGA vectors when using CEAL? Now you can find out what the "S" means in SVGA. The files needed to load a Logitech mouse are now available for download in the General Utilities area of the CRAB BBS as the self extracting zip LOGITECH.EXE. Unzip file, place its contents floppy, then run the in led ... rything installed correctly. Use Logitech driver instead of the Microsoft driver when you boot. It is completely compatible with the Microsoft Mouse, works just fine in Windows, but gives you the added option of taking advantage of the SVGA (800X600), single or dual screen graphics option in CEAL. Its super.
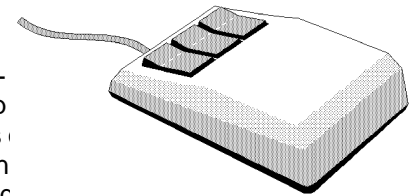
1995 CEAL Exchange in Atlanta

Nearly 200 CEAL's from around the country hit the road and gathered to sample that CEAL 7.0 peach and absorb the ample Georgia hospitality at the sumptuous Westin Peachtree Plaza in downtown Atlanta. This was the first CEAL Exchange to be held outside of Tampa, and the turnout certainly reinforced that decision. The GDOT were able to demonstrate how extensive their implementation of CEAL is, with representatives from virtually all of their district offices in attendance. CEAL 7.0 was shown off extensively, especially its functionality inside of Windows. There were 4 of us in all from Washington there, including Bryan Thorp and Steve Becken from Benton County, who showed remarkable poise during the golf session, and Jim Michel from WSDOT. Jim showed some of the newest products from his very active Design Visualization group to the crowd, and there was a demonstration of Roadmap and Roadshow for Autocad (see below). Other participants, demonstrating the popularity of CEAL in that area of the country, presented their work about prompts programming strategies, bridge design interfaces to CEAL, survey mapping schemes, and the CEAL training program at the Southern College of Technology, the largest training ground for the civil engineering profession in Georgia. Congratulations to GDOT and the remarkable CLM staff for making it all look easy.
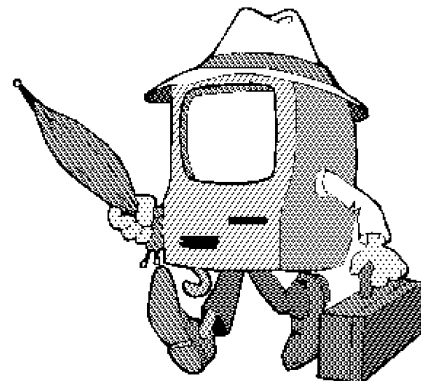
♣ New Autocad utilities

Roadmap, a new suite of utilities for CEAL model translation to CAD, was recently completed by CRAB. Roadmap runs entirely inside Autocad and provides DTM, Contour, and Map Model translations, as well as point and click access to the endarea animation utilities called Roadshow. Some of the highlights of this new product include automated contour labelling aligned with contour polylines, Map Model translation without a translation table, and Roadshow's new support for building and Accurender tree insertion based on Map Model coordinates.

Roadmap works in Autocad R12 DOS only (R13 DOS/Windows coming soon). You can download Roadmap (including Roadshow) from the CRAB BBS as the self-extracting ZIP file, ROADMAP.EXE.

Progressing along the Internet

As mentioned in the past, we have been doing a little *net surfing* (that's serious research on the global Internet during lunch breaks) and are on the brink of a more serious on-line presence. I think we also mentioned, about a year ago, that we were just about to get email addresses. Well, it has been a little more complicated than we first presumed. Finally though,

we have just ordered hardware and a data line to hook ourselves up to the Internet. I hate to be too presumptuous, but I think everyone at CRAB will have an email address around the time Windows 95 comes out.

We have been surprised by the explosion in Internet activity over the past year. Many county employees are getting access as this is being written. The driving force behind our own interest is the hope of improved communication with our colleagues in county government. So please pass on your ideas about how we can better serve you in this cyber-age.
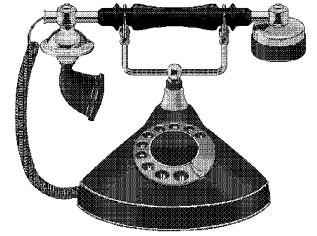
Keep an eye on your Passing Lane

Upcoming features:

Conferences - The lowdown on the 6th CEAL User's Conference and 2nd County Design Forum, October 10-12 at the Westwater in Olympia.

Crash course - Easier access to CRIS accident information.

Training - Schedules and syllabi for the approaching training season.